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(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-03) today joined his colleagues in voting in favor of House Resolution 171, passed by unanimous consent, to encourage constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina and express the importance of sustained United States engagement in partnership with the European Union (EU). The measure is sponsored by Chairman Howard Berman and originally cosponsored by Congressman Carnahan, both members of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

By passing the resolution the House expressed the importance that Bosnia and Herzegovina work toward "an efficient and effective state able to meet its domestic and international obligations with more functional institutions, including a state government capable of making self-sustaining reforms and fulfilling European Union (EU) and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) requirements."

Congressman Carnahan also worked to include language calling for additional efforts to be made domestically and at the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY) to achieve justice for victims of war crimes.

**"It's important the world community continue its efforts to achieve justice for victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, as well as to promote reconciliation among ethnic groups who have contributed to the Balkan's rich history," said Carnahan. "I favor a renewed commitment to the region by appointing a Special Envoy to the Balkans, who can work in partnership with the EU, Bosnia, and other leaders."**

As Vice Chairman of the International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight Subcommittee, Congressman has visited the region and has consistently been a strong defender of human rights.

Congressman Carnahan, who represents one of the largest Bosnian-American populations in the U.S., co-founded and co-chairs the bipartisan Congressional Caucus for Bosnia. The Caucus helps direct attention to the needs of all citizens of Bosnia and Bosnian-Americans, and fosters and improves relations between the U.S. and Bosnia.

For video and audio of Congressman Carnahan addressing the resolution on the House floor visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Tuhcd91k4A>

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